a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of one positive single lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

42. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens,

said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

43. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said fourth lens group consists of one positive single lens alone,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group and satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

45. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group consists of a negative single lens, a negative single lens, and a positive single lens,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

46. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

47. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises a positive single lens convex on an object side thereof and a doublet consisting of a positive lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative lens concave on an image side thereof,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

49. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said fourth lens group has a surface with a stronger curvature on an object side thereof than on an image side thereof,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

50. (Amended) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1 or 43, wherein the first lens group remains fixed during zooming.

51. (Amended) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1 or 43, wherein the third lens group moves during zooming.

52. (Amended) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1 or 43, wherein the third lens group moves toward the object side of the system from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

53. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and

a condition $0.5 < | F_2 / F_3 | < 1.2$ is satisfied, where $F_i$ is a focal length of an i-th lens group.

54. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and

a condition $0.49 < | L_3 / L_2 | < 1$ is satisfied, where $L_i$ is an amount of movement of an i-th lens group from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

55. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad \ldots (7),$$

wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and

a condition $2 < ( F_{3,4w} ) / IH < 3.3$ is satisfied, where $F_{3,4w}$ is a composite focal length of said third and fourth lens groups at the wide-angle end, and IH is a radium of an image circle.

56. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group having negative refracting power;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group having positive refracting power,

wherein:

during zooming, a space between said first and second lens groups, a space between said second and third lens groups and a space between said third and fourth lens groups vary independently,

said third lens group consists of, in order from an object side thereof, a double-convex positive lens, and a doublet consisting of a positive meniscus lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative meniscus lens, and said fourth lens group consists of a double-convex lens having a large curvature on an object side surface thereof, and

a negative lens is located nearest to the object side of the second lens group and a condition $\nu_{21} < 40$ is satisfied, wherein $\nu_{21}$ is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

62. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a bi-concave negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a bi-concave negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

64. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group comprises at least two single lenses,

said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (4) is satisfied:

$$0.6 < | F2 / F3 | < 1 \qquad (4)$$

where Fi is a focal length of an i-th lens group.

65. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group comprises at least three lens components,

said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (4) is satisfied:

$$0.6 < | F2 / F3 | < 1 \qquad (4)$$

where Fi is a focal length of an i-th lens group.